



News from The Newark Museum

P.O. BOX 540, 49 WASHINGTON ST., NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07101

Mary Sue Sweeney, Supervisor, Public Relations (201) 733-6600, 6605

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Walter Newkirk

PUBLICATION ILLUSTRATES NEWARK'S HISTORY

America's third oldest major city is the subject of a new publication entitled "Newark: An American City" by Charles F. Cummings and John E. O'Connor.

Covering a two hundred year span, from the outbreak of the Revolution in 1776 until the conclusion of the Bicentennial, the authors have attempted to record through photographs the events and developments in Newark. Beginning with Washington's march through Newark and ending with the Bicentennial retreat in Military Park in 1976, Cummings and O'Connor have filled in the many events which have contributed to make Newark one of the nation's major urban centers.

Early photographs, selected prints, maps and drawings all illustrate the city's chronology. Especially interesting are full page reproductions of the 1806 "Shoemaker" map, the 1910 "ethnic map," and a contemporary illustration from the U.S. Census Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area map which includes Morris, Union and parts of Somerset and Middlesex counties.

Illustrations and period photographs show the Morris Canal, the old Egyptian-style Essex County Court House, an 1836 panorama photographed from the eastern side of the Passaic River, 18 woodcuts from early Newark City Directories, and a full-page reproduction of Newark's famous 1872 Industrial Exhibition.

Also featured are interior photographs of the once-great Clark Thread Mills, Newark's department stores, trolleys and wagons in Mulberry Street, and Will Cone's wonderful photograph of Broad and Market Streets at the turn of the century. The development of the state's largest library, museum and historical

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society are also depicted.

Recorded along with the "good old days" are the slums, health problems, the Depression, bread lines, and the riots of 1967. A page is devoted to an interesting comparison of the nation's fifty largest cities by population. While Newark was the nation's 37th largest city in population, it ranked 50th in land size and second in density. The final section of the study includes contemporary pictures of the business community and Newark's residents.

In his introduction, Newark Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson states, "this publication is the first major history of Newark to appear in more than a decade. I have often observed that 'wherever America's cities are going, Newark will get there first.' This book shows us -- better than any other publication I know -- how Newark got where it is today. And in so doing, this book can help prepare us for the challenges of tomorrow."

The book's authors are historians Charles F. Cummings, Supervising Librarian in the N.J. Reference Division of the Newark Public Library, and John E. O'Connor, Assistant Professor of History and Coordinator of the Man & Technology Degree Program at N.J. Institute of Technology.

"Newark: An American City," (12" x 15"), 52 pp., contains 173 black-and-white photographs. It may be ordered by mail from the Publications Department of The Newark Museum, P.O. Box 540, 49 Washington Street, Newark, N.J. 07101. The price is \$4.95, plus \$1.00 for postage and handling.